

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0228

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTIONS TO EMBARGO LIFTING REPORTS

REF: NICOSIA 0227, (B) NICOSIA 0182, (C) STATE 019472

1. PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU SUMMONED CHARGE AT 1030 LOCAL JAN 26 TO ASK FOR CLARIFICATION OF AMBASSADOR SPIERS' REPORTED REMARKS ON POSSIBLE LIFTING OF EMBARGO AS CARRIED ON ANKARA RADIO EVENING JAN 25. KYPRIANOU SAID REPORT OF AMB SPIERS' REMARKS SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT, CONTRARY TO STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT OF JAN 24, USG MIGHT HAVE MADE A COMMITMENT TO GOT TO TAKE ACTION TO LIFT EMBARGO WITHOUT PROGRESS ON CYPRUS. KYPRIANOU REVIEWED HIS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT US POLICY AS HE HAD FORMULATED IT TO CHARGE ON JAN 23 (REF B) AND ONCE AGAIN ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF AMERICAN POSITION ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TURKISH DCA AND THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

2. CHARGE NOTED THAT OUR ONLY INFORMATION ON AMB SPIERS' INTERVIEW WAS VIA CYPRUS MEDIA, BOTH
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GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT PRESS AND RADIO; WE WERE ASKING FOR A MORE COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF AMB'S REMARKS TO ANKARA NEWS AGENCY AND FOR INFORMATION ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INTERVIEW.

3. KYPRIANOU REITERATED HIS CONCERN ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE WEAKENING OF THE EMBARGO PRIOR TO A SOLUTION OF THE

CYPRUS PROBLEM. HE SAID IF THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED, THERE WILL BE NO SOLUTION IN CYPRUS. COMMENTING ON DEPT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENTS OF JAN 24 (REF C), KYPRIANOU SAID THEY WERE GOOD "AS FAR AS THEY WENT." HE NOTED THAT THE SPOKESMAN HAD NOT SAID IT WAS ADMINISTRATION POLICY TO LINK CYPRUS AND TURKISH DCA, ONLY THAT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON PROGRESS ON CYPRUS. THIS, HE SAID, WAS NOT SATISFACTORY AND DID NOT ACCORD WITH HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE ASSURANCES HE HAD RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT CARTER IN OCTOBER.

4. CHARGE SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT GOC HAD EXERCISED RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON GREEK CYPRIOT MEDIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE EMBARGO ISSUE. WE SPECIFICALLY HAD NOTED THAT EDITORIALS IN LOCAL PRESS JAN 25 WERE MODERATE AND THAT ALL PAPERS HAD CARRIED FULL ACCOUNTS OF DEPT SPOKESMAN'S JAN 24 STATEMENTS. KYPRIANOU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOC HAD ASKED PRESS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND SAID THIS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE GOC POLICY.

5. COMMENT: DURING JAN 26 CONVERSATION, PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU WAS RELAXED AND ANIMATED. HE DID NOT SPEAK IN A THREATENING TONE BUT WAS CLEARLY VERY CONCERNED. HE SEEMED A BIT EMBARRASSED ABOUT CALLING CHARGE IN FOR SECOND TIME IN ONE WEEK, AND AGAIN STARTED CONVERSATION BY
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SAYING HE DID NOT WANT TO BE INTERFERING IN US DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. IT APPEARS WE CAN EXPECT A HIGH DEGREE OF PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT BY PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU AS LONG AS THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE LIFTING OF EMBARGO IS NOT SETTLED TO HIS

SATISFACTION. END COMMENT.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE TO RESPOND TO GOC REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AMB SPIERS' ANKA INTERVIEW. EMBASSY ANKARA TRANSCRIPT OR TRANSLATION OF INTERVIEW WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.
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